Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether there were other accident before this?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* In the ferry boat there has been no previous accident except in the Ponjikkara line and not in this place.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* What about the Motor Boat accident in Cranganur?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* That was later and not before this?

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* The information asked for is the boat accidents in the back-water and not in any particular line. It is said there was one more accident recently.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* In the ferry there were only two accidents. With regards to the motor boat accident that has no reference to the ferry.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* I am asking about boat accidents in the back-waters. It does not specially mention the ferry.

A. Voice.— That is the next question.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin-Christians-Ernakulam):* I am sorry.

BOAT ACCIDENTS IN THE BACK-WATERS

221. Mr. P. M. Mayankutty *(Mattancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the recent boat accidents in the back-water;

(*b*) have the Government conducted an official enquiry;

(*c*) if so what are the findings?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The accident in respect of the motor boat was due to overcrowding and those in respect of the country boats where due to overcrowding and stormy weather.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. എം. മായൻകുട്ടി: ഈ ബോട്ടപകടത്തിന്മേൽ ബോട്ടുടമസ്ഥന്റെ പേരിൽ വല്ല നടപടിയും എടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* There was only one motor boat accident in back-waters. It is due to uncontrolled crowding in the boat. Further, Government have taken necessary action in regulating traffic in the Willingdon Island Jetty.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. ഡീവർ: ഈ കായലിൽ വഞ്ചിമുങ്ങി ആളുകൾ മരിക്കുന്നതിനെ തടയുവാനായിട്ട് വല്ല നടപടിയും ഗവണ്മെണ്ട് എടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Yes.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. ഡീവർ: എന്തു നടപടിയാണ് എടുത്തത്?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* The Government are now exercising very strict control on the overloading of the country boats. They have selected a few jetties on the Willingdon Island on which alone these boats can tough and at these places they are posting Police Officers to see whether these boats are over crowded. In case they detect cases in which boats are seen over crowded they are taking suitable action.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ജെ. ചിറയത്ത്: എത്ര പോലീസ് ഓഫീസേഴ്സിനെ ഓരോ സ്ഥലത്തും വെച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* One Police Officer at each of these selected jetties.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ജെ. ചിറയത്ത്: ഈ ആക്സിഡന്റുണ്ടായ സമയത്തു പോലീസുണ്ടായിരുന്നുവെന്നു പറഞ്ഞല്ലൊ. പിന്നേയും ഒരു പോലീസ് ആപ്പീസരെ നിത്തിയതുകൊണ്ട് എന്താണ് കാര്യം!

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* In the first case I was answering that question in respect of the country boats. In the case of the motor boats I have already informed the House that arrangements for regulating traffic in the jetties in the shape of gates, police men, etc., have been made.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. ഡീവർ: ബോട്ടിൽ ഇത്ര ആളുകളെ കയറ്റുവാൻ പാടുള്ളു എന്നു പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

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മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. അരവിന്ദാക്ഷമേനോൻ: ഉണ്ട്.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. ഡീവർ: അതു് ശരിക്കു പാലിക്കപ്പെട്ടുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നും ആരെങ്കിലും നോക്കാറുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. അരവിന്ദാക്ഷമേനോൻ: അതു് നോക്കുവാനായിട്ടാണ് ഇവരെ നിത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നതു്.

Mr. P. Sankara Menon *(Trichur-North):* Will the Government take action on the owners of these ferry boats?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* No action was thought necessary to be taken. In the enquiry which we conducted it was clear it was not due to any of their fault that the accident happened.

Mr. C. J. Chirayath *(Nellai):* If the police on duty cannot stop any rush at the jetty is it not necessary to take action against that police man?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* We did not think so.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. ഡീവർ: വഞ്ചക്കാലത്തു പുഴയിൽ ഒരു ആംബുലൻസു ബോട്ട് ഉണ്ടാക്കുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെണ്ട് ആലോചിക്കാമോ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* That question will be considered.

222. Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of boat accidents involving loss of human life, which took place during the past two years along with the extent of the loss of life and property resulting therefrom, in the back-water area between Cochin and Ernakulam;

(*b*) what steps the Government has taken or intend to take, to prevent the recurrence of these unhappy tragedies?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):*

(*a*) 1119—Three Country boats carrying workmen of the Harbour capsized involving the loss of 10 lives.

1120—Some Country boats capsized on 5th Mithunam 1120 which involved the loss of 2 lives. One Motor Boat M. L. Cherupushpam also capsized on 24th Meenam 1120 involving the loss of 3 lives. Properties worth about Rs. 774 were also lost in the motor boat accident.

(*b*) The Country Boat services carrying workmen to Harbour do not start or touch jetties or landing places maintained or approved by Government. Government has issued orders to canalise this traffic and to make these boats to touch at certain fixed jetties in the Willingdon Island at which places police men will be posted to check overload.

Regarding the ferry boats, Government have ordered them to run additional trips using bigger boats during morning, noon and evening hours. The issue of tickets has also been ordered to be restricted to the actual accommodation available in each boat. Arrangements have also been made to control the rush of passengers at the Willingdon Island Jetty.

In order to relieve congestion in the ferry service, Government have also sanctioned bus services between Ernakulam and Mattancheri.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to request the Harbour Authorities to take their workers in their own motor boats?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government):* We approached the Harbour Authorities regarding this and they said they are not in a position to do anything. Government even thought that if motor boat ferries are conducted between the Willingdon Island and some of these places, Mulavukad, Panambukad, Ochamthurithi, etc., it would be very advantageous to these workmen. For that purpose advertisements were made in the local papers. But nobody came to start any service. I understant it is due to the difficulty in getting sufficient number of motor boats now. Then I personally met the Administrative Officer in the Willingdon Island to see that something is done about this. He too promised the co-operation of the Harbour Authorities. But he said he had not sufficient number of boats for the purpose. If any body is forthcoming to take up this ferry service Government will be prepared to afford evey kind of help possible. We are very anxious that such incidents should be avoided. We are doing our best in this matter.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* Have the Government taken any action to give any help by way of compensation to the dependants of the labourers who lost their lives?

Mr. B. V. K. Menon *(Secretary to Government):* I do not know whether any claim has been made.

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